

A CLAIM OR CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of treating water in situ to both sterilize the water and remove unwanted odors or tastes produced during sterilization, comprising the steps of:

5

- (a) filling a plastic container with water;
(b) sterilizing the water by employing a sterilizing treatment or by adding a sterilizing agent to the plastic container;

10

- (c) sealing the plastic container with a cap having an interior surface, wherein the cap comprises an odor-scalping material;

such that any unwanted odors or tastes produced by the sterilization treatment or by the addition of the sterilizing agent are absorbed by the odor-scalping material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the odor-scalping material is a zeolite.

15

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the zeolite pore size ranges from about 1 to about 50 angstroms.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) is accomplished by a method selected from the group consisting of: treating with UV light or treating with an electron beam.

20

5. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) is accomplished by ozonation.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the ozonation is conducted at a temperature in the range of about 20° to about 50°C.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein the plastic container comprises polyester.

25

8. The method of claim 2 wherein the cap additionally comprises a cap liner affixed to the interior surface, and wherein such cap liner additionally comprises zeolite.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the cap liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: PP, LDPE, HDPE, mPE, EVA ethylene acid copolymers and ionomers thereof

10. The method of claim 2 wherein the cap additionally comprises a cap liner affixed to the interior surface, and wherein such resealable cap comprises zeolite only within such cap liner.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the zeolite comprises about 0.05% to about 10% by weight of the capliner.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the cap liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: PP, LDPE, HDPE, mPE, EVA ethylene acid copolymers and ionomers thereof.
13. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) is accomplished by the addition of a sterilizing agent comprising chlorine gas.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein step (c) occurs within about 0.001 to 5 minutes of the completion of step (b).
15. The method of claim 13 wherein step (c) occurs within about 0.01 to 1 minutes of the completion of step (b).
16. The method of claim 13 wherein the zeolite pore size ranges from about 1 to about 50 angstroms.
17. The method of claim 13 wherein the cap additionally comprises a cap liner affixed to the interior surface, and wherein such cap liner additionally comprises zeolite.
18. The method of claim 13 wherein the cap additionally comprises a cap liner affixed to the interior surface, and wherein such resealable cap comprises zeolite only within the cap liner.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the zeolite comprises about 0.05% to about 10% by weight of the capliner.
20. A container for packaging a sterilized water product for human consumption comprising:
- (a) plastic container free of odor-scalping material; and
 - (b) a resealable cap for sealing the plastic container comprising an odor-scalping material.

21. The container of claim 20 where the container contains sterilized water and the odor-scalping material is zeolite.

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